of Karnataka for setting up of power projects in public sector and private sector, separately, cleared by the Union Government so far;

(b) the expenditure incurred on each project;

(c) the number of such proposals pending for clearance in each sector; and

(d) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Public Sector power projects in Karnataka which have received techno-economic clearance from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and are on-going, together with the Expenditure incurred on each project, are as follows:

		Capacity (MW)	Expenditure incurred upto Sept., 96 (Rs. Crores)
1.	Kalinadi St. II H.E.P.	270	391.17
2.	Dandili H.E.P.	60	1.95
3.	Sharavathy Tail Race H.E.P.	240	107.39
4.	Brindavan H.E.P.	12	4.64
5.	Bhadra H.E.P.	6	2.57
6.	Gangavali H.E.P.	210	6.70
7.	Raichur TPS (Unit 5&6)	420	7.25

In addition, Sarapadi H.E.P. (90 MW) has also received techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority. This project is awaiting investment sanction. Two private sector power projects namely, Toranagaullu TPS (260 MW) of M/s Jindal Tractebel Power Corporation Ltd. and Mangalore TPS (1000 MW) of M/s. Mangalore Power Company, have also received techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority. These projects are yet to achieve financial closure.

(c) and (d). Proposal for Yelahanka DGPP Extension (46.8 MW) is under examination in the Central Electricity Authority which could be taken up for techno-economic clearance on Karnataka Electricity Board tying up necessary inputs and clearances.

SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when will the power projects cleared for Karnataka become operational? What is the total power requirement of the State of Karnataka? What is the power being generated now? And what will be the capacity increase after these projects become operational?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : I have already laid a statement on the Table of the House regarding the total number of projects. During the Eighth Plan period, the requirement is 24,168 MW and the availability is 20,220 MW. The shortage is 3961 MW, that is, 16.4 per cent. Out of this, 390 MW will be commissioned; 78 MW are dropped due to constraint of funds but being attended to through private sector route in the Disricts of Kolar, Bidar and Jamakandi; and the balance quantity is under execution. The total planned capacity is for 1436 MW out of which 296 MW is commissioned so far.

SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal before the Government to privatise power transmission, and if so, when that proposal is going to be implemented. Has the sanctioning authority been decentralised, if so, what are the powers that have been given to the states in the field of power generation and transmission?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : There is a proposal before the Government for privatisation of the transmission sector. The existing Acts of 1910 and 1948 do not permit privatisation of transmission sector. We have already sent a proposal to the Ministry of Law. They are examining it.

Recently, the hon. Prime Minister had taken many initiatives by delegating more powers to the State. In his announcement of 16th October, he had mentioned delegation of sanctioning powers to the State Governments in case of projects worth Rs.1,000 crore. So the sanctioning powers for 50 MW projects will be given to the State Governments. We are preparing an Action Plan in this regard. In the Conference of Chief Ministers on Power which was held yesterday, we have circulated the Draft Action plan on power. The hon. Chief Ministers have also given some suggestions. After incorporating their suggestions, we will prepare the final Action Plan.

Prime Minister's integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme

*185. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme aims at eradication of poverty by providing self-employment, shelter upgradation and skill upgradation training in the cities having population between 50000 and 100,000 as per 1991 census;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Maharashtra has approached the Union Government with the request to include certain cities, which fulfil the population criteria, in the Programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP), besides other objectives, aims at eradication of poverty by providing self-employment, shelter upgradation and skill upgradation training in Urban Agglomerations (U.A.) having a population between 50,000 and 1,00,000 as per 1991 Census.

(b) to (d). The Government had received propsoals for inclusion of Kulgaon-Badlapur, Navghar, Manikpur and Kamptee towns in Maharashtra under PMI UPEP. While Navghar and Manikpur forming part of the Vasai U.A. with population between 60,000 and 1,00,000 as per 1991 census, are already included under the Programme The State Government been informed accordingly.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I got my reply with great difficulty. Before putting my supplementary, I would request that the reply should be displayed in the notice board. The Government of Maharashtra has written to the Central Government to extend assistance to towns having a population 50,000 to 1,00,000. I agree to their views, but population strength is not correct as has been replied by the hon. Minister. How the Government is going to solve this problem. Yesterday, itself I made an enquiry in the department, but I did not get any reply. I demand that Kamtee, Kulgaon and Badlapur should be included in this programme.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any question? I do not find any question.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will it be done or not. I demand that these villages should be included in the programme....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The reply was received with great difficulty. Please put easy question.

[English]

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : Sir, the position is that there is a consistent demand even from the Ministry of Urban Development to include these Kamptee and Kulgaon-Badlapur towns here.

As far as PMP UPEP norms are concerned, it is the Urban Agglomeration that has been taken into consideration and not the city or the municipalities, at the time of formulation of these guidelines. There is a slight difference where a particular town has got a population limit within that range as far as the Urban Agglomeration is concerned. As it has been defined and conveyed by the concerned States, this Urban Agglomeration population is not falling within that range where the difficulty arises.

The hon. Minister for Urban Development for Maharashtra has also been time and again writing to me and there was also a letter from an hon. MLA of that region, i.e. Kamptee. But the only difficulty that comes in the way is that since this is not falling under that particular category of 50,000 to one lakh we are unable to take it. Actually, for beyond one lakh range, another ID programme is there and these towns can be taken up under that.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The Government of Maharashtra has written letters. I would like to know whether the Government of Maharashtra would be authorised to undertake the programme. If there will be any objection, the Centre can called for plantation from the State Government. I want to know whether the Government of Maharashtra and other States would be authorised to undertake these programmes.

[English]

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : The programmes are being taken up, formulated and implemented only by the State Government. On the other day, just four days back, on the 30th of November, I had been to Mumbai to review all these programmes that are being implemented under these various items by the Maharashtra Government. We have reviewed them.

As far as this particular programme, that is the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication programme is concerned, there is a little bit of slackness on the part of the Maharashtra Government. In fact, they did not even release the matching grant. I had even brought this to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister also but they had not yet released the matching grant. I made a request to them personally to release the matching grant so that all these programmes can be implemented. There is no difficulty in implementing all these programmes. As far as the implementation is concerned, it is only the State Government which is at liberty to implement these programmes. I had also made a request to the hon. Minister for Urban Development to write to me if there is any further difficulty in any particular case.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Navdhar-Manikpur comes under my constituency. Vasai is only Taluka which has 4 municipalities,. There is no other instance in the country in which a tuluka has 4 municipalities that too outside Bombay. People from other parts of the country come to Bombay and start

living there. Will the Government provide assistance to implement all the schemes in Vasai Taluka?

[English]

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : Sir, as I have already mentioned, it is under Urban Agglomeration. Let the State Government take up this issue. Let it delink these towns from Urban Agglomeration. If the State Government writes to me after delinking these towns from Urban Agglomeration, our Ministry will certainly examine it.

The hon. Members will appreciate that even the definition of 'Urban Agglomeration' is also being done by the State Government and they are communicating it to me. So, they can as well delink some of these towns from Urban Agglomeration and come up. I will certainly examine it and do the needful.

MR. SPEAKER : I think so.

Power Tariff for Agriculture Sector

*186. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to phase out power subsidies and have issued guidelines to State Governments to impose basic minimum tariff for the farm sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have opposed the phasing out of the power subsidies; and

(d) if so, the further steps Government propose to take to ensure farm sector is not affected adversely on power subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d). A Statment is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The tarriff for sale of electricity to the different categories of consumers, including the agricultural sector, and the extent of subsidy to be provided is fixed by the SEBs with the approval of the concerned State Governments. In the Power Ministers' Conference held in January, 1993 a unanimous decision was taken to fix the minimum agricultural tariff at 50 paise/kwh throughout the country. This decision was to be implemented by the individual State Governments/ SEBs.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. In the recent Chief Ministers' Conference held on 16.10.1996, a number of states expressed the need for setting up a National/State Electricity Regulatory Commission to rationalise power tariff, including agricultural tariff.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had the opportunity to hear Prime Minister's speeches on as many as 50 occasions since the day he took oath of the office of the Prime Minister. On each and every occasion he claimed to be farmer's son and was prepared to do anything in the farmer's interest. When the question of providing power at subsidised rates comes, he says that subsidy is to be given by the power houses. I want to know as to what assistance will be provided by the Central Government in this regard. It is very essential that the Central Government should supply power to farmers at cheap rates, because the farmers cannot do anything without water. I want a categorical reply from the hon. Minister as to what will be the role of the Central Government to provide power at cheap rates. Merely delivering sermons will not serve any purpose. It is being said that power is being supplied at Rs.0.50 per unit. I want to know the name of the State which is supplying power at this rate. I want a categorical reply from the hon. Minister about the policy of the Government on subsidy. What the Central Government is doing to supply power to farmers at cheap rates.

MR. SPEAKER : You have asked the same question 4 times.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : As per the Electricity Supply Act, 1948, the electiricty tariff and the extent of subsidy are decided by the State Electricity Board with the approval of the State Government concerned only. The Central Government has no role in fixing the retail sale of electricity applicable to any category of consumers including consumers from agriculture and domestic sectors. Since the question raised is about the issue of minimum tariff and the power sector, we applied that in the power Ministers' meeting. A similar type of meeting, a Conference was held in the year 1993. At that time, all the Chief Ministers of Power Minister arrived at a consensus to fix the tariff to at least 50 paise. That is the consensus arrived at in the Conference held in the year 1993 only. Now the Central Government has no role in fixing the tariff of the State Electricity Boards.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : That means the farmers have been left at the mercy of God ...*(Interruptions)* The entire country heard the stand of Government on subsidy that it cannot do any thing in this regard. I would like to submit that while fixing the price of petrol, diesel and gas, transportation charges from the place of their availability are taken into accent but in the case of electricity transmission charges are not included while fixing its price. The rates are equal both at the site of generation and at the place of consumption at a distant place. How for it is justified. Electricity is generated in Vidarbh and supplied to other parts of the country but there is no difference in rates